

MAY 31 1957

FOIAb3b

Egypt and Jordan Sign Defense Pact

Nasser's Feud With Hussein Ends Abruptly

By Joe Alex Morris Jr.
Los Angeles Times

CAIRO, May 30—President Nasser today signed a mutual defense pact with King Hussein of Jordan, whom less than a month ago Nasser denounced as an agent of the American Central Intelligence Agency.

The dramatic shift in Arab world politics was explainable only in terms of closing the ranks to face the enemy Israel. Until today, when the Jordanian monarch landed his plane at Amman military airport, the two leaders were considered mortal enemies.

When Hussein landed, however, Nasser was at the airport to meet him along with Egypt's four vice presidents, the Prime Minister and the speaker of the National Assembly. Hussein and Nasser embraced and drove off to Kubba Palace to work out the pact which is identical with the Egyptian-Syrian pact signed last November.

If war breaks out, the American-advised and equipped Jordanian army would come under Nasser's command. The pact is valid for five years with a one-year notice for unilateral withdrawal. It provides that an attack on one country will be considered an attack on both.

After the signing Nasser, 49, addressed Hussein, 31, as "Dear brother," the nicest thing he has said about him in the year since the Arab progressive and conservative factions have broken apart.

"This defense agreement has erased all our differences in one moment," Nasser said.

If anything he was more effusive than Hussein, who said that despite past differences "our two countries stood always as one hand and one heart."

Hussein, who wore battle dress and had a pistol slung low on his hips, has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the pact which should ease domestic pressure on him greatly. More than half his country's population are Palestinians who tend to favor Nasser over the Hashemite throne.

"Our action today will stun the world," Nasser commented in the understatement of the day.

In the most bizarre performance of the six hours Hussein spent in the Egyptian capital, his bitter foe, Ahmed Shukairy, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization was—as he later put it—"summoned" to participate in the talks for one hour. Only on Monday Shukairy in an interview described Hussein as "a traitor to the people" who had "alienated himself from the Arab cause."

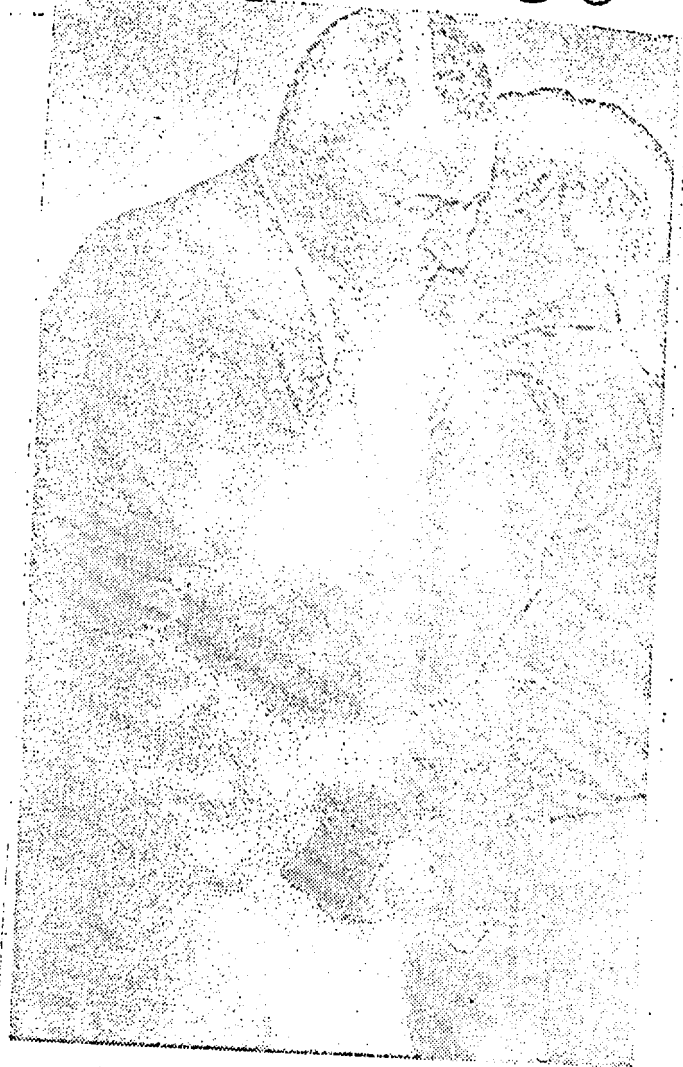
Afterward Shukairy said curtly, "This agreement needs no comment. We only hope it will move from paper to the battlefield."

To add insult to injury Shukairy was prevailed upon to fly back to Jordan with Hussein to show the people the Arabs were again a united front.

How united only time will tell. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, the leader of the Arab conservative bloc, is on a state visit to Belgium.

Faisal's Visit Rumored

The Saudis and there were rumors in Cairo that Faisal too would be coming here soon.



United Press International
ALLIES — Egypt's President Nasser embraces King Hussein of Jordan as they meet to sign a defense pact.